

P20380.A03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : S. K. GUPTA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2123

Appl. No. : 09/818,505

Filed : March 28, 2001

: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MULTI-PART SETUP PLANNING
FOR SHEET METAL BENDING OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

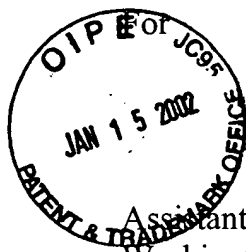
Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2001 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants hereby call the following information to the Examiner's attention:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of an International Search Report from the European Patent Office dated December 29, 1998, with respect to counterpart Patent Application PCT/JP 98/04,110, in which the European Patent Examiner cited the following documents:

(1) WO 96 15,481 to AMADA CO LTD; AMADA LTD US, published May 23, 1996, was cited as an "X" category document (i.e. document that is particularly relevant if taken alone) with respect to claims 1-3, 10-12, 20-23 and 30-33 of the corresponding

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International Application; the Examiner indicated page 41, line 21 - page 54, line 26, and figures 8, 9 and 20-20D as being relevant. This document was also cited as an "A" category document (i.e. document relevant to the technological background) with respect to claims 4-9, 13-19, 24-29 and 34-50; the Examiner indicated page 41, line 21 - page 54, line 26, and figures 8, 9 and 20-20D as being relevant.

(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,307,282 to CONRADSON et al., issued April 26, 1994, cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1-3, 10-12, 20-23, 30-33 and 40. The Examiner indicated column 13, line 62 - column 16, line 33, and figures 12-14 as being relevant. Applicants note that the CONRADSON '282 patent was cited previously in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2001.

(3) U.S. Patent No. 5,659,478 to PENNISI et al., issued August 19, 1997, cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1, 10, 20, 30 and 40. The Examiner indicated column 3, line 14 - column 6, line 35, and figure 2 as being relevant.

(4) "INFERENZMASCHINE FUER EIN BIEGESTADIENPLANUNGSSYSTEM" to M. GEIGER et al., published May 1, 1992, volume 87, no. 6, pages 261-264, XP000271,922 of ZWF ZEITSCHRIFT FUR WIRTSCHAFTLICHE FERTIGUNG UND AUTOMATISIERUNG, cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 40-50. The Examiner indicated page 262, right hand column, paragraph 7 - page 264, right hand column, paragraph 1 as being relevant.

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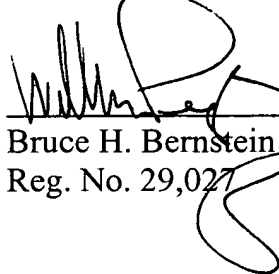
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants' representative submits that a first Official Action on the merits has not issued in this application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the above-noted documents. Copies of the above-noted documents (except CONRADSON, which was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2001), are attached hereto. Further, all of the above-noted documents have been listed on a PTO-1440 Form which is also attached hereto. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed. An English language translation of the noted portion of the German language non-patent document will be submitted as soon as it becomes available to Applicants' representatives. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form to confirm consideration of these documents and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

January 15, 2002
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Respectfully submitted,
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